

CLAIMS:

- SUB D27 1. An object data search apparatus comprising:
- 5 a database for storing object data in association with a plurality of attribute words categorized according to sentence elements of a natural language;
- an input unit for receiving an input of a search criterion in the form of a sentence of the natural
- 10 language;
- a criterion retrieval unit for analyzing the search criterion in the form of the sentence and retrieving one of a plurality of search words respectively corresponding to sentence element
- 15 categories of the natural language ;
- an object retrieval unit for searching the database using each of the search words respectively associated with the sentence element categories, and retrieving the object data associated with the
- 20 attribute words that match a single search word or a plurality of search words; and
- an output apparatus for outputting the object data thus retrieved.
2. The object data search apparatus according to
- 25 claim 1, wherein said database stores destination data at least associated with an attribute word having an agent of action category, an attribute word having an action category and an attribute word having an object

of action category.

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A1 } 3. An object data search method comprising the steps of:

5 retrieving one or a plurality of search words from a search criterion input in the form of a sentence of a natural language by analyzing the search criterion in accordance with a grammar of the natural language;

10 conducting a search relative to a plurality of sentence element categories associated with a plurality of object data items, based on a single search word or a plurality of search words; and

15 retrieving the object data associated with the attribute word that matches a single search word or a plurality of search words and outputting the object data thus retrieved.

4. The object data search method according to claim 3, wherein the search is conducted using at least a search word having an agent of action category, a search word having an action category and a search word having an object of action category.

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B2 } 5. A computer-readable recording medium storing data according to a relational database structure, wherein tuples each comprising an object data item and
25 a plurality of attribute words categorized according to sentence elements of a natural language are stored.

ADD D3
ADD F2